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SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

_PORT

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Newspapers as indicated.

CRITICIZES CONSUMERS' GOODS ENTERPRISES

READERS COMPLAIN ABOUT TRADE IN CONSUMERS' GOOLS -- Trud, No 212, 8 Sep 49

Letters to Trud indicate that some trade enterprises are not performing their duties adequately.

One Trud reader complains that sateen and molestin are not available in the stores of the city of Shcherbakov, even though the stores are well-stocked with a large variety of other fabrics including linen, crepe de chine, and var. us kinds of wool cloth. In every store the clerks say they have had sateen and moleskin but are all out now and do not know when there will be any more. Since these goods are produced in sufficient quantity, the fact that they are not to be found in the stores is certainly the fault of the trade organizations.

Another reader writes that while overshoes can be found in any store in Mazakhstan, they are not a suitable variety for the weather there.

Letters have been received criticising the work of the stores of the "Leningradugol'" Coal Combine. The stores do not carry potatoes, although there are plenty in neighboring villages. Nearby lakes contain fish in abundance, but fish is never sold in the miners' stores. The miners cannot find suitable clothes in stores either, nor can they buy dishes, childrens' toys, or chess sets. On the other hand, the warehouses are crammed full of goods for which there is no demand. This is the fault of the head of supply, a worthless bureaucratic baggler who was expelled from the Donbass trade organizations last year.

Some store clerks think it is all right to sell poor-quality goods. For example, one Moscow store sold a pair of oxfords which did not stand up under even half an hour's wear. The head of the shoe department in the store did not help the customer to have the shoes exchanged and it was only after many requests and much stubbornness on the part of the customer that they went together to the factory which produced the shoes. However, the director of the factory refused to satisfy the legitimate demands of the customer.

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Another reader calls attention to the poor quality of blades put out by the "Krammaya zvezda" Plant of the Ministry of Local Industry RSFSR.

Still another reader writes that a stand in a Moscow restaura t sold him a hox of matches containing only 35 matches instead of the 50 which were supposed to have been there. At his suggestion several other boxes were opened and every one was short. One was 26 matches short. The stand attendants think it unnecessary to check up on the supplier, the "Cigant" Plant in Kaluga, because one box costs only 20 kopeks. It has not occurred to them that the directors of the enterprise are cheating the government. This kind of packing makes it a lot easier to overfulfill the plan.

These facts do not speak well for the work of the trade unions in these enterprises. The controllers who are supposed to check on the work of stores are apparently not very wide-awake either.

STORES LACK VARIETY OF GOODS -- Kommunist, 6 Sep 49

Trade organizations still show deficiencies. They are not supplying stores with the required quantities and varieties of commodities. The Armenian trade organization has no confectionary products at all and many general stores lack tobacco, sausage and fish products, meat and dairy products. Other stores even lack articles of basic necessity. Frequently, goods are in uneanitary condition.

EDITORIAL SCORES CARKLESSNESS, RUDENESS -- Trasmaya Zvezda, 10 Sep 49

Deplorable conditions prevail in trading organizations which supply garrisons in various parts of the country. The store clerks seem to adhere to the rule -- if you don't like it, don't buy it. No care is taken to improve store fixtures and to secure refrigerators. No attention is paid to the quality and variety of goods sold, and customers are not even treated politely.

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